ABSOLUTE GREEN LANTERN™

ALL IN

15+ TEEN+ 13

EWING
CARLINI
PLASCENCIA

THE NOT-SO-SECRET ORIGIN OF SUPERMAN'S BESTEST ENEMY!

4-ISSUE MINISERIES APRIL

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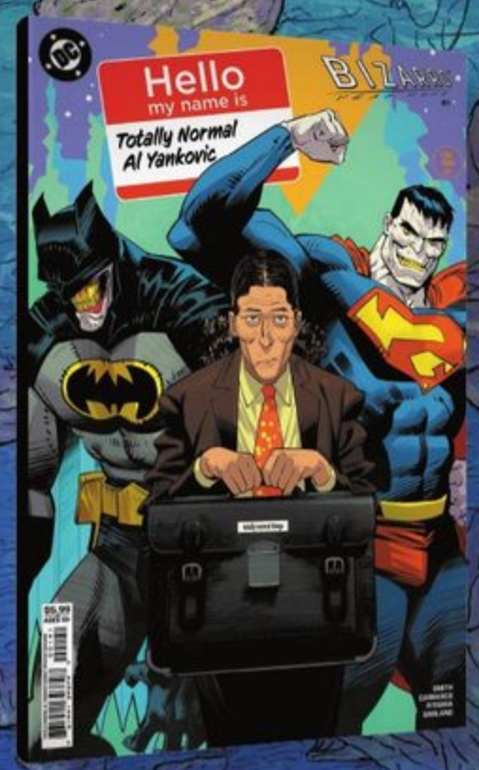
Written by
KEVIN SMITH
and ERIC CARRASCO
Art by
NICK PITARRA

PLUS: DON'T MISS THE TOTALLY NORMAL AL YANKOVIC VARIANT COVER!



BIZARRO #1

YEARMORE

BLACKSTAR PROGRAM RUNNING.

[ZERO/ZERO] PROTOCOL/[QARD]
OPERATING WITHIN OPTIMUM PARAMETERS.

UNIVERSAL CONTROL ASSIGNED TO THIS [ELEMENT].

[ONE/ZERO]
PROTOCOL
OPERATING WITHIN
EXPECTED
PARAMETERS.

[ZERO/ONE]
PROTOCOL
OPERATING WITHIN
EXPECTED
PARAMETERS.

[ONE/ONE]
PROTOCOL
OPERATING WITHIN
EXPECTED
PARAMETERS.

ERROR. ERROR. UNKNOWN PROTOCOL.
[ONE/ZERO/???]

ERROR. ERROR. TRACK ERROR.

NO [MAN] ESCAPES. TRACK ERROR.

ERROR LOCATION CONFIRMED.
CONTACT [LOCAL] AGENT.

SIN/ES/TRO.

PLANET RANN

THE TOMAR SITUATION IS ESCALATING, OVERSEER.

ONE ANOMALY, WE COULD TOLERATE.

RE OF XUDAR WAS AN IRRITANT, BUT LITTLE THREAT. THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH YOU CAN DO WITH THE RED LEVEL.

A GREEN-LEVEL ANOMALY, MANIFESTING ON A WORLD OUTSIDE OUR REACH?

KZZT--

TROUBLING, COMMANDER. BUT NOT A CONCERN...

...UNLESS THEY MEET.

AND MY SOURCE TELLS ME THEY HAVE, OVERSEER SHADE.

WITH RESPECT, CONTROLLER...WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THIS? I'M THE OVERSEER OF RANN. I'M NOT ANYONE USEFUL.

I'M TRYING TO CONVERT THIS DYING, BACKWATER WORLD TO THE BLACKSTAR WAY-- BUT I'M A STRANGER HERE. THE LOCALS KNOW I'M NOT FROM THEIR PLANET.

I'VE HAD TO MAINTAIN SECURITY WITH CONVERTS AND RAW RECRUITS FROM MY OWN WORLD. I HAVE TO TAKE PERSONAL COMMAND OF IMPORTANT MISSIONS.

AND RANN IS RIGHT AT THE EDGE OF OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE...

NO LONGER. YOU'RE AT THE HEART OF THINGS NOW, OVERSEER. DO YOU KNOW THE PLANET EARTH?

A WORLD NOT TOO FAR FROM RANN. PRE-FUSION POWER. BINARY COMPUTING. CULTURALLY...VIOLENT SLAVES TO A SYSTEM OF BARTER TOKENS.

BENEATH THE INTEREST OF THE CULT OF OA, I THOUGHT... BUT IT SEEMS THEY'RE GETTING DESPERATE.

"A LANTERN WAS STATIONED THERE--ONE OF THEIR RECRUITING STATIONS. THE ABIN SUR ASSIGNED TO IT DIED...AND A NEW TOMAR WAS CREATED.

"THAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.

"I'VE BEEN BRINGING THE DESTROYER-PLANET MOGO TO EARTH... TO SAY HELLO...

"...BUT MOGO MOVES AT ITS OWN PACE, AND THE TOMARS DON'T WANT TO WAIT PATIENTLY.

"THEY'RE COMING TO ME, IN THE LANTERN THEY'VE COMMANDEERED... AND TO DO THAT, THEY'LL NEED TO PASS THROUGH RANN'S SYSTEM."

ASSIGN EVERY BLACK HAND YOU HAVE.

WHEN THEY SLINGSHOT PAST YOUR LARGEST SUN--TAKE YOUR SHOT.

BREAK THE LANTERN. SECURE OR KILL THE TOMARS. NO EXCUSES.

CONTROLLER OUT.

...

SIR.

YOU HEARD THE ORDER, INTELLIGENCER. "EVERY BLACK HAND YOU HAVE."

ASSIGN ALL TWO OF THEM TO CAGECRAFT FOR IMMEDIATE LAUNCH.

AS YOU COMMAND, OVERSEER.

WE'LL HAVE TO HOPE NOTHING ON-PLANET REQUIRES HEAVY WEAPONS CAPABILITY IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS.

HHH. ALL RIGHT.

SEND IN THE NEXT MEETING.

PLEASE!

JUST LISTEN TO ME!

THIS IS *RANN!* THIS IS *RANAGAR*-- THE GREAT CITY!

SCIENCE HAS *REIGNED* ON THIS WORLD SINCE THE *ONE-DAY WAR*--EVEN THE *NOMAD CHIEFS* RESPECT THE SCIENTICIAN CASTE!

I--I HAVE *EVERY RIGHT* TO EXPERIMENT WITH *NONDESTRUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES!*

THAT WILL *DO,* SCIENTICIAN SARDATH.

JUST *LISTEN!*

I--I WAS TESTING A SIMPLE *COMMUNICATOR BEAM!* THAT'S *ALL!*

NOTHING MORE!

I WAS TRYING TO BE OF *SERVICE*--

I SAID...

QUIET!

AAAHHH!

SOME SCIENCE FROM *MY* WORLD, SCIENTICIAN.

IT'S CALLED THE *M-VEST.* AFTER WE CONVERTED TO THE *BLACKSTAR WAY,* IT WAS MADE *STANDARD ISSUE* FOR PLANETARY OVERSEERS.

IT CREATES PSYCHO-PHYSICAL *DISTORTIONS* FROM THE NATURAL PARANOIA OF ANY *CRIMINALS* IT ENCOUNTERS...

...CRIMINALS LIKE *YOU,* SARDATH.

OVERSEER, *PLEASE!*

IF Y-YOU'RE A MAN OF *SCIENCE--*

ACTUALLY, I STUDIED THE *HUMANITIES.*

I ONCE THOUGHT I'D BE A *POET.* I CLUNG TO THAT NOTION AGAINST *ALL REASON.*

BUT IN THE ZONE I COME FROM, IF THE YOUNG CANNOT *CHANGE...*

...CHANGE IS *FORCED UPON THEM.*

THE *SACRED LASER* ENTERS THEIR BRAIN AND *CARVES OUT* CHILDISH THINGS...CREATING *RESPONSIBLE ADULTS.*

RAC SHADE THE IDLE *POET* BECAME *OVERSEER SHADE,* PRODUCTIVE SERVITOR OF *META-ZONE* AND THE *BLACK STAR WAY.* AND THIS IS *TODAY'S* SERVICE...

...DECIDING WHAT TO DO WITH ***YOU.***

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR ***ZETA BEAM,*** SARDATH.

IT'S...IT'S FOR ***COMMUNICATION.*** I ***SAID.***

TO CALL FOR ***HELP?***

TO CONTACT OTHER WORLDS. OTHER ***DIMENSIONS.*** TO ***SPREAD*** THE PHILOSOPHY OF MU.

I... I THOUGHT IF I COULD BE ***HELPFUL*** TO YOU...

...YOU'D TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO ***ALANNA.***

INTELLIGENCER?

I'VE SENT FOR HER, SIR.

YOUR DAUGHTER ALANNA LED THE ***RESISTANCE*** AGAINST US WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED, SARDATH.

WE'D HAVE BEEN WITHIN OUR RIGHTS TO EXILE HER TO THE ***ZERO-ZONE...***

"...WHERE THE ONLY WAY OUT IS ***FURTHER IN--***INTO THE ***ZONE OF MADNESS.*** ON META, WE'VE STUDIED IT ***CLOSELY.***

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE ***M-ZONE*** HOLDS THE ***TRUTH OF REALITY...*** A GLIMPSE ***BEHIND THE MASK.***

"WE THINK WE ***KNOW*** WHAT THAT SECRET MIGHT ***BE...***"

...BUT YOU'RE A ***SCIENTICIAN,*** SARDATH. MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO INVESTIGATE IT ***YOURSELF--*** IN ***DEPTH.***

ALL THOSE WHO'VE BEEN RETRIEVED FROM ***FULL CONTACT*** WITH THE M-ZONE DON'T STOP ***SCREAMING*** UNTIL THEIR ***HEARTS*** GIVE OUT. "THE SHRIEKING DEATH," WE CALL IT.

BUT ***YOU*** COULD BE THE ***FIRST*** TO SURVIVE.

SO THAT *IS* WHAT YOU DID TO HER...

NO.

BUT THEY'D HAVE BEEN WITHIN THEIR ***RIGHTS*** TO.

I ***SEE*** THAT NOW.

NO... NO, NO, ***NO...***

THE SACRED LASER CARVES OUT ***CHILDISH THINGS--***LIKE ***REBELLION.*** YOUR DAUGHTER IS NOW A RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE ***NEW RANNIAN SOCIETY.***

I WONDER... IS THERE A SACRED LASER ***BIG*** ENOUGH FOR A BRAIN LIKE ***YOURS,*** SARDATH?

BLACKSTAR ***ALANNA?***

FULL POWER TO THE HEAD ON MY COMMAND.

KLAK

LAST CHANCE, SARDATH. TELL ME THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE ZETA BEAM.

OR YOUR OWN DAUGHTER NEGATES YOU AND I FIND OUT MYSELF.

YOU'RE MONSTERS.

YOU'RE ALL MONSTERS.

WE'LL TAKE THAT UNDER ADVISEMENT.

FIRE.

FZAKK

ANY QUALMS, BLACKSTAR ALANNA?

CRIMINALS ARE NEGATED BY ORDER OF THE METAN CRIME CODE, SIR.

IF FATHER WAS NEGATED BY ORDER... HE MUST HAVE BEEN A CRIMINAL.

YOUR LOGIC IS IMPECCABLE.

INTELLI-GENCER? I'M ENTERING THE FIELD.

"I WANT TO SEE FOR ***MYSELF*** JUST ***HOW*** CRIMINAL SARDATH WAS..."

LOOK AT THEM. ***YOUR PEOPLE,*** ALANNA.

EYES DOWN, HEADS DOWN... ***DESPERATE*** NOT TO LOOK US IN THE EYE. A ***CONQUERED*** PEOPLE...

...OR SO YOU'D ***ASSUME.***

BUT THE M-VEST REVEALS THE ***TRUTH.*** WE REALLY ***ARE*** MONSTERS TO THEM.

CAN WE BE BLAMED FOR ACTING THE PART?

THAT'S FATHER'S ***LAB*** UP AHEAD, OVERSEER. CAN I RECOMMEND SENDING A ***SMALL GROUP*** IN FIRST?

SARDATH WAS A ***CRIMINAL,*** AS WE'VE ESTABLISHED. IF HE WAS PLANNING ***SUBVERSION,*** HE MAY HAVE LEFT ***TRAPS.***

HMM.

INTELLIGENCER, ANY WORD ON THOSE ***CAGECRAFT?***

EN ROUTE, SIR.

ALL RIGHT, ALANNA. TAKE ***TWO*** N-AGENTS. I'LL WAIT OUT HERE.

WAIT AND WATCH.

HANDS IN THE AIR!

HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD! OR BE NEGATED!

...NOBODY.

ROOM'S CLEAR.

SO *WHATEVER* FATHER WAS WORKING ON HERE...

...HE WAS WORKING *ALONE*.

THE *ZETA BEAM*...

DON'T GET TOO *CLOSE*, BLACKSTAR ALANNA. YOU SAID *YOURSELF*-- HE MAY HAVE *BOOBY-TRAPPED* IT FOR US.

I KNOW SARDATH'S TECHNOLOGY AS WELL AS *ANY RANNIAN ALIVE*, BLACKSTAR REGA--THAT'S WHY I TOOK *POINT*. I'M NOT SEEING ANYTHING *DANGEROUS*, BUT...

IT'S STRANGE. HE'S DONE *SOMETHING* TO THE BEAM...*AMPLIFIED* IT, *RETUNED* IT SOMEHOW... BUT IT'S JUST FEEDING BACK INTO THAT *MACHINERY*.

WHO'S HE COMMUNICATING *WITH?*

THAT "MACHINERY"... IT'S A **TRANS-MATERIALIZER.**

METAN TECHNOLOGY. IT OPENS **GATEWAYS** TO OTHER ZONES.

YOUR FATHER MUST HAVE COPIED THE TECHNOLOGY FROM **MEMORY...**

SO WHO WAS HE **TALKING** TO? REBEL ELEMENTS IN THE **META-ZONE...?**

THERE **AREN'T** ANY. **YOU'VE** BEEN THROUGH THE SACRED LASER, ALANNA.

YOU KNOW **BETTER.**

"WE'RE THE **PERFECT SOCIETY.** THE **ULTIMATE STATUS QUO.**

"THERE'S NOTHING TO BE **GAINED** FROM REBELLION--THEREFORE, THE URGE TO **REBEL** IS, BY ITS VERY NATURE, **PERVERSE.**

"**SOCIETAL PERVERSION** IS **CRIMINAL.**

"AND WE **KNOW** WHAT TO DO WITH CRIMINALS."

...

THE ZERO-ZONE.

HE WAS TALKING TO ME.

I WAS DISAPPEARED. HE DIDN'T KNOW I WAS GIVEN CLEMENCY... THE SACRED LASER...

HE MUST HAVE WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE.

DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR HIM--

I CAN'T FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.

THAT WAS REMOVED.

BUT IT SEEMS A WASTE OF--

INCEPTION

VREEEEE

WHAT...?

THE BEAM-- IT'S LOCKED ONTO SOMEBODY!

VREEEEE

SOMEBODY IN THE ZERO-ZONE!

VREEEEE

VREEKOOM

SOMEBODY'S--

...

IN... IN THE NAME OF THE *BLACKSTARS*...

...I ORDER YOU TO *SURRENDER*.

OR BE *NEGATED*.

KRAK

DEMONS--

ZKAM ZKAM ZKAM

PUDDOUNACUN URYULG ADWADYY KOT.

ATZYT. ZLOMUUV MANNS.

I--I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE ***SAYING.*** JUST... LET MY ***MENTICIZER*** WORK, ALL RIGHT?

THE DEVICE WILL ***TRANSLATE*** FOR US ONCE IT HAS ENOUGH OF YOUR ***LANGUAGE...***

UADDLAN KWYJZ THAT? SOUNDS LIKE MUSIC--

THERE. WE CAN UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

CUTE TRICK. SO WHAT IS THIS, THE ***FUTURE?***

HOW LONG WAS I ***IN*** THERE?

I DON'T KNOW. WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU ***REMEMBER?***

WE...WE CAN BE ***LENIENT,*** IF YOU SURRENDER. WE CAN MAKE YOU ***PRODUCTIVE.***

TELL ME YOUR ***NAME.***

THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS SHOOTING ***BARON BLITZKRIEG*** IN THE FACE. THEN EVERYTHING WENT WHITE.

EMILY HAWKE. O.S.S ***AGENT ZERO.*** I DON'T SURRENDER.

SO PLEASE... ***DON'T*** GO FOR THE ***GUN.***

THERE YOU ARE.

INTELLIGENCER?

SIR?

KEEP ME *FULLY UPDATED* ON THE BLACK HAND OPERATION. *EVERY DETAIL.*

IF WE CAN *CAPTURE* AN OAN LANTERN, IT COULD--

WHAT...?

SIR! *GET DOWN!*

WE'VE GOT HER IN OUR--

ZZAK

HNNH!

ZKAM

AARRH--

I'M GUESSING YOU'RE THE *BOSS*.

YOU'RE GUESSING RIGHT.

SARDATH'S ACCOMPLICE, I ASSUME?

YOU MADE A MISTAKE, WHOEVER YOU ARE.

THE M-VEST DISTORTS ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION.

WHUD

THE CROWD SEES A NIGHTMARE.

A MONSTER.

SO I AM ONE.

WHAT'S YOUR NIGHTMARE, I WONDER?

WHOKK

IF I TUNE THE VEST TO YOU...

...WHAT WILL YOU SEE?

WHAT?

BUT...

KKRACCK

...

JUST ANOTHER WEAK LITTLE FASCIST.

OVERSEER?

THE CAGECRAFT HAVE ENGAGED THE **LANTERN,** SIR.

SIR? *ARE YOU* ***THERE?***

THAT'S MY CUE TO ***LEAVE...***

DAMN.

NEVER A TRUER WORD.

"THE ONLY WAY OUT IS ***FURTHER IN...***

"INTO THE ***ZONE OF MADNESS.***

"WE BELIEVE THE ***M-ZONE*** HOLDS THE ***TRUTH OF REALITY...***"

"...A GLIMPSE BEHIND THE *MASK.*"

NO [*MAN*] ESCAPES.

TO BE CONTINUED

ABSOLUTE GREEN LANTERN

EPISODE THIRTEEN

THE ZERO ZONE

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DAY 1.

ON THE **FIRST DAY** THE NUCLEAR MAN DESCENDED FROM THE HEAVENS.

HE WAS **ALONE.** YET HE SPOKE, AS IF TO ANOTHER.

THE NUCLEAR MAN WAS TROUBLED AND, IF SOMEONE HAD BEEN THERE TO SEE IT, THEY WOULD SWEAR THAT HIS **FACE** WAS **CONSTANTLY CHANGING.**

DAY 2.

ON THE SECOND DAY, THE NUCLEAR MAN WALKED INTO THE TOWN OF BEDFORD, COLORADO.

SEEING A NUCLEAR MAN, HEAD AFLAME AND EYES WHITE WITH THE POWER OF SUNS, WAS NOT A COMMON OCCURRENCE IN BEDFORD AND THE TOWNSFOLK POINTED AND STARED.

THE NUCLEAR MAN SEEMED TO PAY THEM NO MIND. IT WAS AS IF HE DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE ALIVE AT ALL...

UNTIL SUDDENLY HE DID, GOD HELP THEM.

DAY 3.

ON THE THIRD DAY, THE NUCLEAR MAN BEGAN TO **EXPERIMENT.** HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO LIVE IN A WORLD OF GLASS AND CHALK... SO HE MADE ONE.

NOT EVERYONE LIKED LIVING IN A WORLD OF GLASS. THE TOWNSPEOPLE CRIED OUT AND WRUNG THEIR HANDS, DEMANDING THE NUCLEAR MAN PUT THINGS BACK TO NORMAL.

BUT THE NUCLEAR MAN DID NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THEIR IDEA OF "NORMAL." THEIR LIVES WERE A MERE ILLUSION. HE WOULD TEACH THESE PEOPLE THE ONLY THING TRULY NORMAL WAS **CHANGE.**

DAY 4.

SO, ON THE FOURTH DAY, THE NUCLEAR MAN TRANSFORMED **NOT ONLY THEIR WORLD...** BUT **THEM** AS WELL.

DAY 5.

AND, ON THE FIFTH DAY, REALIZING WHAT HE HAD DONE, THE NUCLEAR MAN WEPT.

DAY 6.

ON THE SIXTH DAY THE NUCLEAR MAN DECIDED ANY **VESTIGES OF EMOTION** HE ONCE HAD WERE NO LONGER OF **ANY CONSEQUENCE.**

AND, IN FREEING HIMSELF FROM THIS BURDEN, HE TRULY BEGAN **HIS GREAT WORK.**

DAY 7.

AND, ON THE SEVENTH DAY HE RESTED...

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE FURY OF FIRESTORM #1 DC NEXT LEVEL ON SALE IN APRIL!

SUPERGIRL WOMAN OF TOMORROW
TOM KING
BILQUIS EVELY
MATHEUS LOPES
At evening's end, as my brothers suffered through their daily wrestlings, Father'd load his longpipe and sit me down at the hearthstone.
As the sweet smoke twirled, then settled, he'd tell me of his far-flung adventuring.
And in that way I learned of the Frozen Fires of Denzinir, whose melted droplets would burn to ashes in the grasses below.
Or of the Bladed Men, who had no ears but had knives for fingers and ate only as the sun set or rose.
Perhaps my favorite was the Maiden of Arista.

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

SUPERGIRL
WOMAN OF TOMORROW

INTERVIEW WITH TOM KING

Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow has quickly become a modern classic now headed to the big screen this June! A 2023 Hugo Award finalist and one of the New York Public Library's Best Books for Adults in 2022, the character-defining sci-fi/fantasy masterpiece continues to reach both dedicated comics fans and first-time readers. Writer Tom King reflects on the book's emotional depth, its inspirations, and the transcendent visual world artist Bilquis Evely and colorist Matheus Lopes brought to life.

How would you describe *Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow*?

Tom King: It was a story very much inspired by old Westerns and ancient literature. It's about a young girl named Ruthye. Her father is killed and she's trying to seek revenge for that killing. Supergirl finds Ruthye and they find something in each other, a loss they've both experienced. They go on this mission and Ruthye thinks she's going on a mission of revenge and Supergirl thinks she's going off to save this young girl from her emotions, that she's just going to bring justice and not revenge. As the two of them go through the trials and tribulations of space, they learn the other's perspective. Supergirl learns that pain could lead to anger, and Ruthye learns how anger could lead to redemption.

Bilquis has multiple talents and they're all highlighted in this book. One of them is world-building. No one makes these beautiful backgrounds that seem to come alive, that seem to pour out from a dream you never knew you had. Another thing she brings is such emotional depth to her character work.

We can't talk about Supergirl without talking about the amazing art. What was the experience like seeing the visuals come together?

TK: I've worked with some of the best artists in comics, and lord knows Bilquis Evely is one of them. I had no idea the transcendence that she, along with Matheus Lopes, would put into those pages. They elevated this book in a way that few artists have done in the history of comics.

I mean if you look at the final cover, it's Supergirl standing on a beach staring out, which is basically the whole comic in her expression, and no one puts more lines in anything like Bilquis does, but there's like seven lines that define her face. In those seven lines, you see the entire history of this character. You see her family dying, you see the hope of her father pushing her away. You see the conflict, the ability to turn all that pain into hope into love, all in one image, all in seven lines. I mean, it's a miracle.

There are so many ways to experience this story. Let's talk about it!

TK: The magic of this book is that you can give it to anybody. You could give it to someone who's read comics for 40 years and knows this character, knows how honest we are to her, and you could give it to someone who's never read a panel of a comic book. DC Comics has been kind enough to put it in a lot of places that new readers can find it. If you want the whole big experience, there's a beautiful oversize hardcover which has extra material of my scripts and extra art. There's a softcover of the book where you could read it and disappear from the world for a while, go into your adventure that'll make you both laugh and cry and be mad and have fun.

There's also a DC Compact Comics edition. It looks like a small book, sits beautifully on your shelf. You can pick one up from the shop, hand it to your daughter, and suddenly she has something to read in the car on the way home. Next thing you know, she's a fan of this book and a fan of the medium.

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